

TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF AWC RECOMMENDATIONS

Update Report 2024



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Introduction

The [Alberta Water Council](#) (AWC) has been tracking the implementation status of its recommendations since 2012. As part of this process, two reports are prepared for awareness: a Detailed Report and an Update Report. The Detailed Report lists recommendations and their implementation status (provided by the identified implementer), by individual recommendation, theme, or full suite of recommendations. The Detailed Report is in table format and is posted on the Council's [website](#). The Update Report provides a general overview of implementation progress; it is presented annually at a board meeting each year. As part of this presentation, the board has an opportunity to discuss implementation progress and offer advice to implementers concerning any challenges or suggestions identified.

In 2017, the board approved a revised process with the objective of facilitating more meaningful updates on the status of the recommendations and incorporating a process that would allow us to stop tracking them once they had achieved criteria. Options for reporting are intended to facilitate more meaningful updates using a variety of channels (e.g., presentations, webinars, videos, others). This will allow the AWC to identify recommendations that require no further updates, streamline the recommendation tracking process, and focus future updates on recommendations for ongoing work.

This is the seventh Update Report based on the revised tracking system. It highlights key changes to the status of recommendations and describes implementation progress by project since the last report (October 2023). The date shown after each project name is when the recommendations were originally presented to the board.

As part of the Council's efforts to diversify its deliverables, it is observed that recent AWC projects were not tasked with providing trackable, policy recommendations targeted towards sectors as was the case with past projects. Instead, policy advice was provided in alternative ways (e.g., guide, perspectives report, event proceedings). Staff intend to work with AWC members and other partners to provide summary updates on these projects at milestones as information becomes available.

Overview

This report synthesizes updates received on 288 recommendations from 17 [AWC projects](#). The charts on the following page provide an overview of how the distribution of recommendation status has evolved since the last updates were provided in 2023.

Starting in 2018 many recommendations were assigned to new categories such as: implemented through an alternative approach, partially implemented, and closed, either because not a priority or not appropriate.

Starting in 2020, recommendations that were closed in previous years are assigned to previously implemented/closed.

To date recommendations from the following projects have **all** been reported as implemented:

- Wetland Policy
- Sector Planning for Water Conservation, Efficiency, and Productivity (CEP)
- Shared Governance
- Provincial Ecological Aquatic Criteria for Health
- Moving from Words to Actions
- Wetland Policy
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Water Literacy

To date recommendations from the following projects have been considered closed:

- Intra-basin Water Movement
- Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrade
- Riparian Land Conservation and Management

To date recommendations from the following projects have been considered implemented, partially implemented, or closed:

- Non-Point Source Pollution
- Water CEP
- Watershed Management Planning
- Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems
- Lake Watershed Management
- *Water for Life* Implementation Review 2009
- *Water for Life* Implementation Review 2015

AWC Recommendation Tracking Detailed Reports – 2024

The Alberta Water Council (AWC) tracks the implementation status of its recommendations annually. The following status key was used by targeted implementors to provide their updates.



Implemented

Implementer reports that the recommendation or its intent has been implemented.

Choose one of the following options:

OPTION 1 - As written: Recommendation has been implemented as written by the AWC.

OPTION 2 - Alternative approach: Intent of the recommendation has been implemented through an alternative approach.

OPTION 3 - Unclear but met: The recommendation did not include a clear goal and/or timeframe, but the intent has been met.



Partially Implemented

Recommendation or its intent has been partially implemented but there is no plan to implement the outstanding portion.



Pending

Implementer reports that the recommendation is at various stages of implementation or uncertain; further follow-up is required next year. Choose one of the following:

OPTION 1 - To be completed: Implementation has begun with the intent to be completed.

OPTION 2 - Uncertain: Implementation may or may not have begun but further progress is contingent on other factors (e.g., other work, budget limitations, staffing limitations).



Closed (no further follow-up planned)

Implementer reports that the recommendation will not be implemented, and no further follow-up is expected. Choose one of the following:

OPTION 1 - Not a priority: Recommendation is no longer considered a priority.

OPTION 2 - Not appropriate: Recommendation is no longer considered appropriate (e.g., this is not part of the mandate of the identified implementer, this group does not exist anymore, AWC targeted the recommendation to an inappropriate group).

OPTION 3 - Unclear and not met: The recommendation did not include a clear goal and/or timeframe, and the intent has not been met.

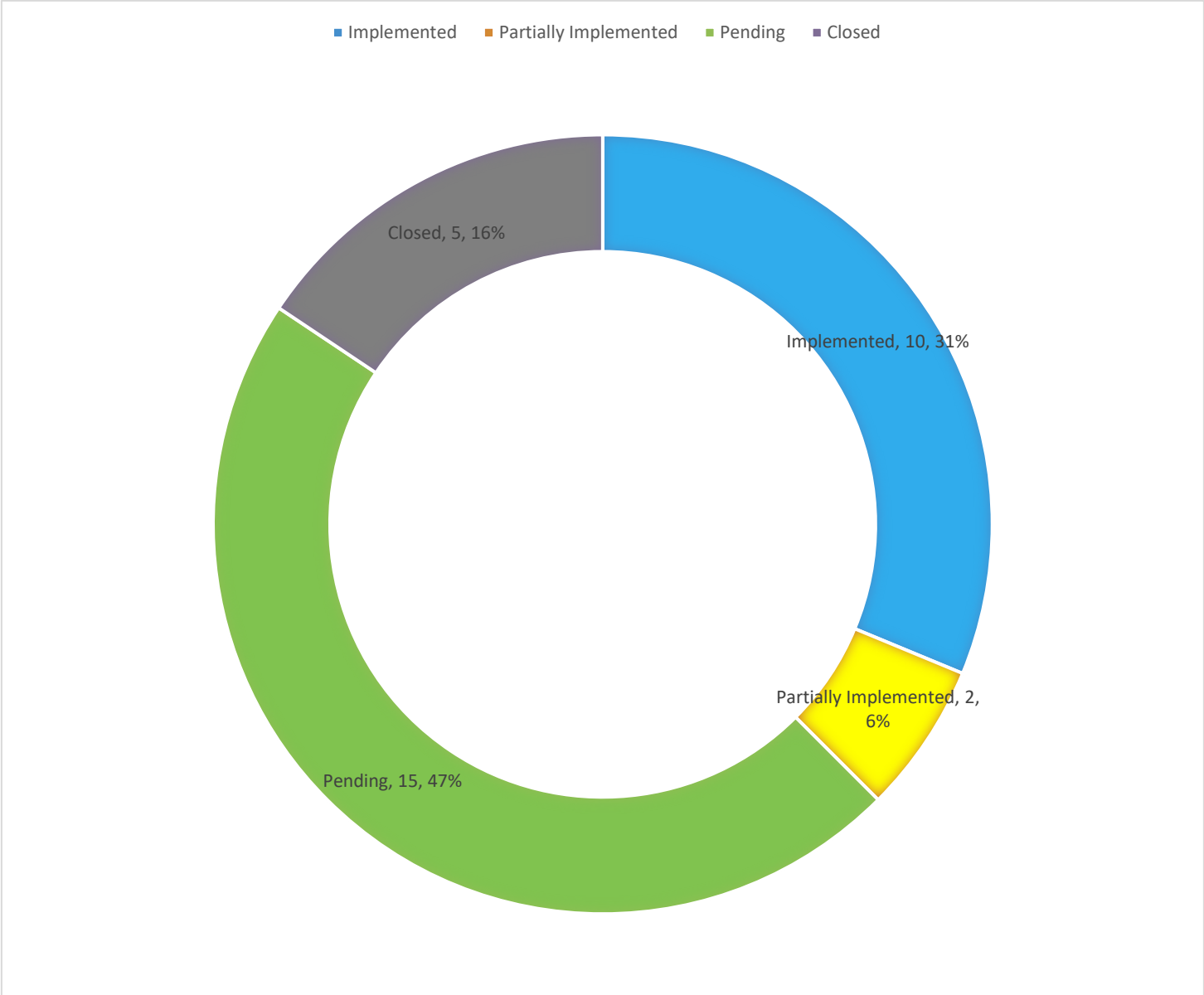


Previously Implemented or Closed

Recommendation was reported as implemented or closed in previous reports.

Recommendations Overview

The following chart illustrates the overall distribution of recommendations' status for 2024:



Projects

This section presents project-specific updates. For each project, the charts on the right are a quick way to assess how the status of recommendations has evolved with time. **Please note that the charts below use the same legends as the charts on the previous page:**

- Previously Implemented/Closed
- Implemented
- Partially implemented
- Pending
- Closed

Wetland Policy and Implementation Plan (September 2008)

- **Recommendation 2.2.1:** marked as implemented for this year.



Water for Life Implementation Review 2009 – 2011 (October 2012)

- **Recommendation 6:** remains “pending” by the ASN for WSGs.
- **Recommendation 7:** was updated to implemented by the major water-using sectors.



Evaluating Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (March 2017)

- **Recommendation 1 and 3:** are marked as implemented through various means by major water-using sectors.

- **Recommendation 4:** was marked as closed.
- **Recommendation 2:** is pending to be completed.



Water for Life Implementation Review (2021)

- **Recommendation 1 – 10 and 13- 15:** remains pending to be completed.



Protecting Sources of Drinking Water in Alberta (March 2020)

This work resulted in a guide, companion report, and how-to video that advises on how to protect drinking water sources through developing a Source Water Protection Plan. It is intended for drinking water providers (i.e., public, private, and individual) and other groups. This project did not produce trackable, policy recommendations. Updates on this work will be presented to the AWC at milestones when sufficient data has been collected.

Building Resiliency to Multi-Year Drought in Alberta (January 2021)

This [work](#) resulted in a guide, companion report, and supporting communication materials to assist Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs) to engage municipalities to plan for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from multi-year droughts. This project team developed one performance measure and one recommendation: Percentage of WPACs that have held drought resiliency workshops using the guide 18 months after the report and supporting materials are publicly released. Success for this performance measure is defined as 75% of WPACs having held a workshop. If assessment of the performance measure indicates that less than 75% of

WPACs have held workshops, AWC staff will contact WPACs to identify barriers and obstacles preventing them from doing so.

In July 2023, AWC staff partnered with WPACs to co-host a train the trainer workshop at Pigeon Lake. The workshop reviewed the intent, findings, and suggestions of the past AWC project, the guide, and supporting materials for WPACs to host future workshops on their own with municipalities and other key partners.

As drought has been the focus for water management in the province since late 2023, WPACs have facilitated several workshops with municipalities in their respective watersheds. An update on how things went will be shared with the AWC Board at the October 2024 meeting.

Alberta Water Futures (June 2021)

This [work](#) resulted in a perspectives report that identified the top future risks that may affect Alberta's water management system and assess the readiness of the system to respond to those emerging challenges and potential opportunities. The team did not produce trackable, policy recommendations. However, updates be presented to the AWC at milestones when sufficient data has been collected.

Wetland Policy Implementation Review (June 2021)

This [work](#) resulted in a perspectives report that identified potential performance measures for the goal, outcomes, and strategic directions of the *Alberta Wetland Policy* and describe the challenges, opportunities, or unintended consequences experienced by sectors in the implementation of the Alberta Wetland Policy. The team did not produce trackable, policy recommendations. However, updates be presented to the AWC at milestones when sufficient data has been collected.

Improving Drought Resilience in Alberta Through a Simulation (February 2024)

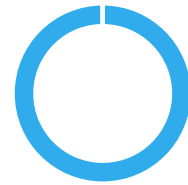
This [work](#) used simulations to assist the Government of Alberta (GoA), municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other groups to understand and plan for drought preparation and response. The team completed a literature review which informed scoping, planning, and execution of the South Saskatchewan River Basin Drought Simulation Exercise. Participants provided feedback on the simulation exercise and key takeaways were synthesized. Several recommendations were developed based on the outcomes and learnings of the drought simulation exercise and will be reported on in next year's update.

Previously Complete or Closed

Shared Governance (September 2008)

All recommendations are implemented, either as written, or with an alternate approach.

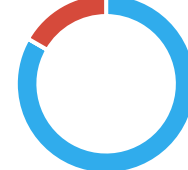
2016/2018



Watershed Management Planning (September 2008)

All recommendations apart from recommendation 3 and recommendation 8 have been implemented as written. Recommendation 3 and 8 were marked as closed.

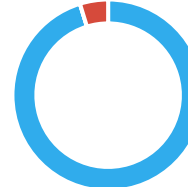
2018



Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning (September 2008)

All recommendations apart from one have been implemented as written. Recommendation 13 was closed.

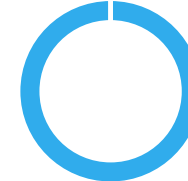
2018



Provincial Ecological Aquatic Criteria for Health (November 2009)

This recommendation has been implemented as written.

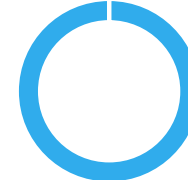
2016/2018



Sector Planning for CEP (March 2013)

All recommendations have been implemented as written.

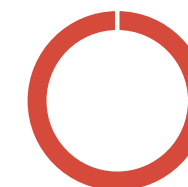
2016/2018



Intra-Basin Water Movement (June 2008)

All recommendations were updated to reflect that they have been closed, as a comprehensive response for these recommendations is not being developed. The Government of Alberta (GoA) is considering new policies and protocols resulting from the emergence of Whirling disease in Alberta, and other actual or potential aquatic invasive species.

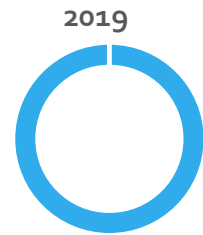
2019



Additionally, a 10-year review of *Approved Water Management Plan for the South Saskatchewan River Basin (Alberta)* is being undertaken.

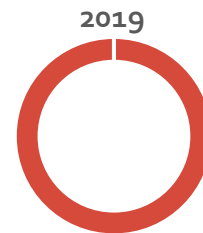
Wetland Policy

All recommendations have been updated to implemented.



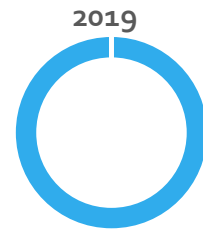
Water Allocation Transfer System Upgrade Project (August 2009)

The status of all recommendations was updated from “pending” to closed.” Alternative approaches and options are being utilized by the Ministry which align with emerging government priorities and available staffing resources.



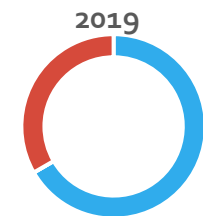
Moving from Words to Actions (June 2011)

All recommendations have been implemented either as written, or with an alternative approach.



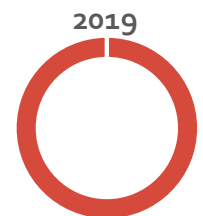
Non-Point Source Pollution (March 2013)

Recommendation 1-4 was implemented as written. Recommendation 5 was closed.



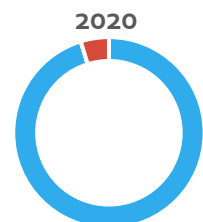
Riparian Land Conservation and Management (March 2013)

The status for all recommendations was updated to “closed.” These recommendations are not part of current water priorities and resources have not been allocated to this work at this time.



Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems (March 2009)

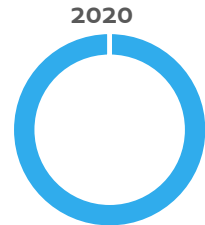
Most recommendations were implemented using an alternative approach, with few implemented as written. One recommendation that was targeted towards the AWC was closed as the Council chose to work on higher priority work in support of *Water for Life* and at this time has no immediate plan to do work in this area. These recommendations are work that GoA will always be doing as



new science, information, and data becomes available. The recommendations are a part of GoA’s routine and evolving work. The department will continue to update the AWC members on HAE progress through presentations and information opportunities at board meetings, such as the GoA update.

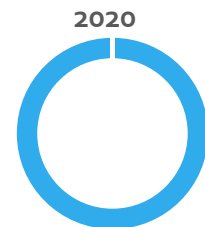
Water Literacy (April 2016)

Four out of the 5 recommendations were implemented using an alternative approach, while recommendation 1 was implemented as written. Work is ongoing to support this initiative by the GoA in collaboration with several partners.



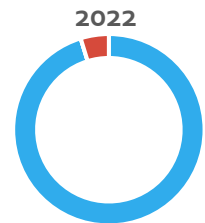
Aquatic Invasive Species (October 2015)

All recommendations were implemented as written. Work is ongoing to support this initiative by the GoA in collaboration with several partners.



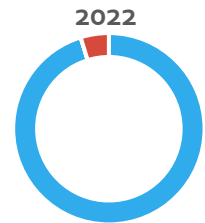
Water for Life Implementation Review (2009)

11 recommendations were implemented as written while two were closed (not appropriate).



Water for Life Implementation Review (2015)

12 recommendations were implemented as written while one was closed (not appropriate).



Lake Watershed Management (2017)

11 recommendations were implemented using an alternative approach while one was partially implemented.

